

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

EUR-25 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /140 W
----- 046102

R 120205 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 22

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6175

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINT CA HU ID PL VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR APRIL 11, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM CAN THO APR 11,
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE CAN THO 0163

1. SUMMARY: REPORTED VC INITIATED INCIDENTS AND ACTION IN THE HONG NGU AREA WERE LOW. VC CASUALTIES WERE UP. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF AN ARVN CORSS- BORDER OPERATION NEAR HONG NGU. THE UNGARIANS AND POLES REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN NVA PRISONER DEBRIEFING (CAN THO 0158). END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA RETURNED TO NORMAL CEASEFIRE LEVELS APRIL 10 POSSIBLY SIGNALING THE END OF A A LUNAR DARK PHASE HIGH POINT. REPORTED VC INITIATED INCIDENTS WERE DOWN TO 47 APRIL 10, INCLUDING 36 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF). VC ACTIVITY WAS HEAVIEST IN CHUONG THIEN WHICH REPORTED 14 ENEMY INCIDENTS, AND DINH TUONG AND KIEN PHONG WHICH REPORTED 7 EACH. GVN CASUALTIES WERE 18 KIA AND 94 WIA. REPORTED VC CASUALTIES SHOT UP TO 137 KIA.

(B) THERE WERE ONLY 5 NVA/ VC INCIDENTS REPORTED FROM THE HONG NGU AREA, INCLUDING 2 ABF. ONE ABF HIT A 15 TH ARVN REGIMENT POSITION 14 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF HONG NGU, RESULTING IN 15 ARVN WOUNDED.
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THE ARVN IV CORPS BRIEFER MENTIONED APRIL 11 THAT ARVN UNITS HAD CONDUCTED A CROSS- BORDER OPERATION APRIL 10. THE OPERATION MAY EXPLAIN THE HIGH VC CASUALTIES CITED ABOVE. THE BRIEFER GAVE NO DETAILS, BUT WE UNDERSTAND ARVN UNITS ATTACKED NVA UNITS IN CAMBODIA NEAR HONG NGU, PROBABLY TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON EMBATTLED HONG NGU DISTRICT. THE NVA/ VC HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ESTABLISH AN ENTRY CONTROL POINT IN THE DISTRICT SINCE THE CEASEFIRE.

3. ICCS: AFTER INITIALLY ACCEPTING THE MR IV COMMANDER' S INVITATION TO INTERVIEW RECENTLY CAPTURED NVA PRISONERS, THE REGION VII POLISH AND HUNGARIAN ICCS DELEGATES BACKED OUT ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY HAD NO " EXPERTISE IN PRISONER MATTERS." THE INDONESIAN CHAIRMAN' S ANNOUNCEMENT OF GENERAL NGHI' S OFFER AT THE APRIL 10 REGION VII ICCS MEETING CAUGHT THE COMMUNIST ICCS MEMBERS BY SURPRISE. FOLLOWING AN APPARENT NEW POLICY OF NOT BOYCOTTING INVESTI-

GATIONS, THEY INITIALLY AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NVA PRISONER INTERVIEW. WHEN THE MEETING ADJOURNED, HOWEVER, THE COMMUNISTS TELEPHONED SAIGON FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND WERE APPARENTLY ORDERED NOT TO TALK TO THE NVA PRISONERS. ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION, THE GVN PRESENTED TO CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN ICCS REPRESENTATIVES TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE CAPTURED ON UNSPECIFIED DATES IN THE HONG NGU AREA. ONE ADMITTED TO INFILTRATING ON JANUARY 26, I. E. BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE. THE OTHER WAS UNCLEAR ABOUT THE EXACT DATE OF HIS INFILTRATION BUT WAS SURE IT WAS SOMETIME IN MARCH, AFTER THE CEASEFIRE. THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS WILL FORWARD THEIR REPORTS ON THE INTERVIEW TO SAIGON. SIGNED BARNES UNQUOTE BUNKER

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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